

effects of vaccination. There were many instances, also, of individuals—including several infants—subjected to the greatest exposure, but who had recently been successfully vaccinated, remaining perfectly protected. The most striking proof of the protective power of vaccination was found among the employes of the mill corporations. Under the direction of the agents of these corporations, a more systematic and thorough course of vaccination has been pursued among the operatives and others connected with the mills, than among the other inhabitants of the city of Lowell. The rule has also always been to remove at once every case of smallpox or varioloid to the corporation hospital as soon as discovered. From the commencement of the epidemic in February, 1871, we are told that only *forty-nine* patients had been so sent from the mills and their boarding-houses, and in no instance have other parties exposed at the time, taken the disease. Twenty of the forty-nine were females, and only two died. It is true, however, that some of the operatives not residing in the corporation boarding-houses had been taken to the City Hospital, and others, prior to September 25th, were treated at their own houses, but these were few in number. As the persons connected in some way with the mills comprise one-third or more of the population of the city, the proportionate number sick with smallpox or varioloid from this class has been, hence, relatively, very small.

The good results derived from the uniform and prompt removal from the mill corporations of all cases of smallpox and varioloid, of course speak in favour of isolation as a prophylactic. Another striking fact, however, in favour of the protective power of vaccination under exposure, is deducible from the fact that very few school-children contracted the smallpox; the rule for admission into the public schools requiring evidence of successful vaccination having been always rigidly enforced. While the Board of Physicians were constrained to place *isolation* as the more successful agency in arresting the spread of the epidemic, they would by no means be supposed to undervalue the importance of vaccination, "*when properly performed.*" Of two things the members of the Board declare themselves more fully convinced than ever, namely: 1st. Of the frequent imperfection of vaccination, either in the manner of its performance, or of some defect in the virus employed; and 2d. Of the "*absolute necessity of revaccination.*" The latter is indispensable, whether we admit that the protective efficacy of the vaccine prophylaxis gradually diminishes with the normal changes that take place in the human body, as it advances in age (and therefore revaccination at proper intervals becomes necessary to test its continuance); or that, often, the first or even subsequent vaccinations, may not have produced a complete prophylaxis, and therefore, the operation should be repeated again and again, until it ceases to produce any effect, "*when,*" the Board admits, "*its protective power will continue for life.*"

D. F. C.

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ART. XXXVI.—*Lessons on Population, suggested by Grecian and Roman History.* By NATHAN ALLEN, M.D., Lowell, Mass. 8vo. pp. 16. Boston, 1871.

In this well-written and highly-suggestive pamphlet, Dr. Allen has examined the lessons on population, based upon facts deducible from the history of the downfall of ancient Greece and Rome. The substance of the essay appeared originally in the *Congregational Quarterly* for October, 1871. Dr. Allen

shows, with great clearness, positive evidence in support of his views, advanced in preceding publications, in respect to population, namely, that when this is dependent mainly upon natural human increase, it must necessarily become diminished by the prevalence of causes having a tendency to render prominent in a people a morbid excess of the nervous temperament. When the great mass of any community is seeking after an extravagantly high standard of self-comfort as their "supreme good," with all the energy, perseverance, and ingenuity they can command, everything standing in the way of its attainment must and will be sacrificed, even including marriage and parental relationship, if these be thought in any degree to conflict with it.

The lessons, based upon the teachings of Grecian and Roman history, Dr. A. would apply to the older settlements of our own country upon its Atlantic border. "As a people," he remarks, "we have set up a high standard of comfort—extravagant, and too expensive; it has too many wants, and requires such an amount of physical stamina and brain-power, as to result in premature exhaustion. This standard is based too much on mere wealth and the selfish nature of man; it is not calculated to develop harmoniously, or in the most healthy manner, all parts of the human body; nor to aid as it should in developing the moral and religious character of man, in accordance with the revealed will of God. The results of such a type of organization were determined, in the case of Greece and Rome, near two thousand years ago, the former flourishing some six hundred years, and the latter five hundred. It is now two hundred and fifty years since the first settlement of New England, and as a people, we are already reaching a crisis, a culminating point in history, where it is becoming a question whether there is, from year to year, an actual increase or not of native population. And if a decline once commence, the *decrease* may be rapid. We cannot well deceive ourselves if we would, for there are agents or causes working gradually and quietly, which seriously threaten the best interests of our people."

D. F. C.

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ART. XXXVII.—*A Practical Treatise on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood.* By THOMAS HAWKES TANNER, M.D., F.L.S., etc. *Third American Edition, from the Last London Edition, Revised and Enlarged,* by ALFRED MEADOWS, M.D., London, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, etc. etc. 8vo. pp. 560. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1871.

DR. TANNER being, from the press of other engagements, rendered unable to superintend the publication of the second edition of his treatise, entrusted the task to his friend, Dr. Meadows, by whom it has been most successfully accomplished. By working out the author's design and intention, he has rendered the work, in the edition before us, an easy and reliable book of reference for the busy practitioner. Dr. Meadows has seen fit to entirely change the general plan of the treatise. He has divided it into four parts. The *first* treats of the physiology and pathology of childhood, including the anatomical peculiarities of childhood, with its hygiene, the process of dentition, etc. The *second* part treats of general diseases, including all the varieties of fever, continued and eruptive, and the several diathetic affections—scrofula, tuberculosis, rickets, and syphilis. The *third* part includes a consideration of the special diseases of children, arranged in physiological order, viz., those of the nervous,